Norham and Islandshires Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Health & Sanitary Condition

OF THE

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1920.

Martin's Printing Works, Berwick.

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health for the Norham and Islandshires Rural District

For the year ending 31st December, 1920.

To the Chairman and Members of
The Norham and Islandshires Rural District Council.

MISS GREET AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Second Annual Report, being for the year ended 31st December, 1920.

AREA.—The area of the District is 47,072 acres.

POPULATION.—The population according to the census of 1911 was 5,830. At present it is somewhat less. The civil population as supplied, is 5,414, and upon that figure the various calculations are made for statistical purposes.

BIRTHS.—The births registered during the year numbered 135, being 60 males and 75 females. 6 of these were illegitimate. This is an increase of 51 as compared with last year, and represents a birth rate of 24·93 per 1000 of the population.

Deaths.—The deaths registered in the district numbered 58. After correction through information supplied by the Registrar-General relating to transferable deaths the number is 64.

The death-rate calculated on the latter number is for the whole district 11·82 per 1000 of the population. This shows a decrease of 15 deaths in comparison with the year previous, and a corresponding decreased rate of 3·35 per 1000 of the total number registered.

27 were of persons 65 years and upwards; 10 were of persons between 45 and 65 years; 12 between 25 years and 45 years; 4 over 15 years of age and under 25 years; 1 over 5 years and under 15 years; and 10 were of children under the age of 1 year.

A Coroner's Inquiry was held on 5 deaths; 3 were cases of suicide, 1 a motoring fatality and the other caused by lightning.

Pneumonia was responsible for 3 deaths; phthisis pulmonalis for 8; cancer for 5; and heart disease for 6 deaths.

Infant Mortality.—As already indicated 10 deaths occurred among children under 1 year of age. This is an increase of 2 as compared with last year.

Deaths from Notifiable Diseases.—These include the following:—

Tuberculosis	11
Puerperal Sepsis	2

Of the tubercular cases 8 were pulmonary, and 3 were other forms.

Infectious Diseases.—The following infectious diseases were notified during the year:—

Measles	1
Chicken Pox	1
Diphtheria	1
Scarlet Fever	4
Erysipelas	2
Tuberculosis	4
Puerperal Sepsis	2
	15

This is equal to a rate of 2·77 per 1000 of the population.

Vaccinations.—There have been 33 primary vaccinations and 11 re-vaccinations during the year.

Water.—At Cornhill, Haggerston, Scremerston, and Norham water is supplied by gravitation. In Norham the pumping plant and parts have all been overhauled and repaired.

At Murton a new water supply is in course of being installed.

The water supplies to various parts of the district are receiving the Council's attention, and hopes are entertained that gravitation supplies will take the place of wells and springs.

Rivers and Streams.—There are no factories in the district and the Tweed which is the principal river, suffers little pollution in its course through Norham and Islandshires.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Privies and ashpits are in general use, and there are a few septic systems. In the larger villages there are stretches of sanitary piping, which work in a satisfactory manner.

Closet Accommodation.—In the main the prevailing system is that of ashpit and privy. The larger houses, where water is available, have W.C.s. No privy conversions have been effected. Generally speaking, every household has a separate privy; but in the course of the year, attention was called to the fact that 4 dwellings at Harper Ridge had none. Suitable provision has now been made for the households in question.

Schools.—The sanitary environments of the country schools are fairly good. Water in the majority of cases is laid on.

Housing.—The population of the district is practically stationary, and no great change is anticipated. Many of the miners in the Scremerston neighbourhood, and not a few farm workers throughout the area are wretchedly housed. Attention has been called to dwellings where, owing to defective accommodation, young adults of both sexes are compelled to sleep in the same apartment. Action taken by the Council has resulted in improvement to the cottages at Shoreswood Hall, and plans for the re-construction of others at East Ord, Emerick, and Newburn have been passed by the Council.

The Housing Committee contemplate the erection of 150 houses (as an instalment), and the realisation of this aim ought to ensure a higher standard of housing throughout the area. An inexplicable reluctance to familiarise the manual worker with a bath is manifested by many property owners. "What does a ploughman want with a bath?" is the query with which suggestions are often met. One naturally replies that the dirtier the occupation the greater ought to be the facilities for regular ablution. But in Norham and Islandshires this argument usually falls on deaf ears; and one is consequently driven to the conclusion that a bath, like a piano, is supposed to imply a certain social status on the part of its possessor. Appreciation of all that bad housing entails, would help the Council in its task.

At present there is general apathy. The man of means too often fails to realise that, even when the problem is viewed from a low and selfiish standpoint, it does not pay to have his poorer brother kenneled in a hovel; while the aspiration for a higher standard of living with which labour leaders credit the workman too often resolves itself into a demand for a higher money wage. Occupants of tied houses are usually keenly alive to all the defects within their four walls. On the other hand, the workman who leases a house is not always willing to pay an economic rent, and one could point to individual instances in which the yearly expenditure on this score contrasts very unfavourably with that on tobacco.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES McWHIR,

Medical Officer of Health.

NORHAM-ON-TWEED, *31st March, 1921.*

HOUSING (INSPECTION OF DISTRICT) REGULATIONS, 1910.

Tabular Statement as required by Article V.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31st, 1920.

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES RURAL DISTRICT.	Total for wholedistrict.	Particulars for different Parishes, Wards, or Groups of Parishes.							Remarks.
		Horncliffe.	Ord.	Ancroft.	Kyloe.	Holy Island	Norham.	Shoreswood.	
No. of dwelling-houses inspected	206	24	27	50	26	40	36	3	...
No. of dwelling-houses found to be "unfit"...	48	12	8	1	12	6	6	3	...
Complaints (*a*) by Householders ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
that houses were unfit (*b*) by Parish Councils...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Closing (*a*) No. of Representations									...
Orders to L.A.	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	Plans passed
(*b*) No. of Orders made ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	for repairs.
No. of Houses (*a*) after notice under									...
voluntarily Section 28, 1919	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Closed (*b*) without notice ...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	
No. of Houses (*a*) under demolition									
demolished orders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(*b*) voluntarily by owners ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
No. of (*a*) after informal notice ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...
Houses (*b*) after service of notice made fit under Sec. 28, 1919 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
for (*c*) after closing order had habita- been made	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
tion (*d*) by Local Authority in default of owner ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
General character of defects found	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Dampness, want of light & ventilation.

ANNUAL REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES, YEAR 1920.

During the year ended 31st December, 1920, visits of inspection have been made to the various parts of the district, for the purpose of ascertaining their sanitary state.

During this period no Statutory Notices have been served. Informal Notices were issued, drawing attention to various insanitary matters. Verbal intimation was also given to those responsible, to remedy matters requiring attention. The Informal Notices dealing with defective drainage, foul ashpits, and other matters received attention. The verbal instructions were invariably speedily acted upon.

Conditions of Dwelling Houses.—Along with the Medical Officer of Health, I have made an inspection of dwelling houses throughout the district. The principal defects found were dampness, want of light and ventilation, and general dilapidation. Repairs have been carried out on various properties, and as time goes on, it is to be hoped that much will be done to make those houses that have fallen into a bad state during recent years more habitable. The Medical Officer deals with this matter in his Report.

Plans.—Plans for the erection, alteration, and improvements, have been submitted to and passed by the Council for additions to house at Norham, alteration to cottages at Fenwick, improvements to cottages at East Ord, Emerick, and Newburn, New Privies at East Ord, new Bungalow at East Ord, and Memorial Halls at Horncliffe, Ancroft, and Cornhill.

Water Supplies.—During the year the water supplies from springs, wells, and other sources have remained good.

Repairs and additions to supplies at Norham, Prior House, and Murton have been made.

The augmentation of the supplies at East Ord, Horncliffe, Norham, Velvet Hall, Cornhill, and other parts of the district are at present under the consideration of the Council.

Sanitation.—The ashpit and privy system is prevalent in the district. In the larger houses where gravitation water supplies exist, there are water closets and baths.

There are also a few Septic Tank Systems throughout the district. It is the intention of the Council to instal Sewerage Systems in connection with the new workmen's dwellings to be erected in the district.

Disinfection.—Premises have been disinfected at Castle Heaton, Norham, Ancroft, Beal, and Ord.

Dairies and Cow Sheds.—Inspections have been made of the cow sheds and dairies in the district. Orders for lime washing have at once been carried out. The number of regular dairy keepers is decreasing.

Factories and Workshops.—These number thirty-four. Upon inspection, no contravention of the regulations were found.

There are none underground.

Slaughter Houses.—There are two slaughter houses in the district, both in Norham. These have been visited regularly, and on the whole are well kept.

As required by Article XX. (16) of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1910, I append the necessary tabular statement.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. ROMANS LAKE,

Inspector of Nuisances.

East Ord,
Berwick-on-Tweed,
31*st March*, 1921.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.—YEAR 1920.

Name of District—
Norham and Islandshires.

Population—5414.

Name of Inspector—
J. Romans Lake,
East Ord,
Berwick-on-Tweed.

	Housing						Water Supply		Drainage			Sanitary Conveniences												
	Structural Defects	Nuisances	Overcrowding	Unfit for human habitation	Defective spouting	Dampness	Insufficient	Unsatisfactory	Foul	Untrapped or Dilapidated	Insufficient	Structural Defects	Insufficient	Foul	Dairies and Cowsheds	Slaughter Houses	Common Lodging Houses	Offensive Trades	Bakehouses	Other Workshops	Nuisances from keeping of Animals	Paving of Yards	Other Nuisances	TOTALS.
No. of Inspections made...																								272
No of Defects or contraventions of bye-laws found	15	14	3	...	4	15	...	2	5	1	6	3	2	...	4	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	76
No. of Defects, etc., outstanding from previous year	9	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
No. of Informal Notices by Inspector	15	14	3	...	4	15	...	2	5	1	6	3	2	...	4	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	76
No. of Defects or contraventions remedied after Informal Notice	17	14	...	...	4	11	...	2	5	1	6	3	2	...	4	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	71
No. of Statutory Notices served by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	Nil
Number of Defects or contraventions remedied after Statutory Notices ...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil